



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 146

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2000

No. 113

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m.

The Reverend Richard Elliott, Pastor, New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania, offered the following prayer:

Eternal and most gracious God, before Your face empires of the past have risen and fallen away. We pray this day for our Nation; a nation entrusted to us by Your gracious hand and rooted in the sacrifices and patriotism of previous generations; a nation nurtured by You with expansive freedom, limitless opportunity, bountiful natural resources, and creative and energetic citizens.

Bless Your servants gathered here this day. Enable them to flourish. Give them wisdom to lead with character, power to serve with humility, kindness to respond with compassion, courage to strive for justice, and strength to pursue peace. Give us to Your children the vision to see the seeds of Your kingdom and to dream and reach for Your future. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. DOGGETT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2909) "An Act to provide for implementation by the United States of the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and for other purposes."

WELCOME TO PASTOR RICHARD ELLIOTT

(Mr. TOOMEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to our guest pastor, the Reverend Richard Elliott of New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church, in Gilbertsville, Pennsylvania. The House is privileged to have Pastor Elliott deliver such an inspirational opening prayer for us today, Thursday, September 21, 2000.

His message to "strive for justice and strength in order to pursue peace" is reflected in the long history of his congregation and its wisdom to lead by example. Founded in 1700, the congregation is currently celebrating the church's 300th anniversary. It is the oldest German Lutheran congregation in the United States.

New Hanover Evangelical Lutheran Church has nurtured a nation with its creative and energetic congregation, with character, with humility, with kindness and compassion. During the War for American Independence, the church served as a temporary hospital for General George Washington's troops after the Battles of Brandywine and Paoli.

Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives is indeed privileged to have Pastor Richard Elliott of new Hanover

Evangelical Lutheran Church deliver the opening prayer today. Pastor Elliott and his congregation are a true reflection of what our Founding Fathers envisioned when they fought for the birth of our Nation.

ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT WASHINGTON'S "FAREWELL ADDRESS"

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, 204 years ago, President George Washington's "Farewell Address" was published in the New York Herald.

For generations, the "Farewell Address" was one of the most recommended political works in American history. Schoolchildren studied it and citizens celebrated it. In fact, in 1862, President Lincoln even issued a national proclamation recommending that people all over the country read the address aloud.

One lengthy section of Washington's address dealt with the importance of religion and morality to public life. After declaring that religion and morality were indispensable to political prosperity, Washington bluntly asked, "Where is the security for property, for reputation, for life, if the sense of religious obligation desert?" He continued, "Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle."

Washington warned Americans that without religious principles, neither education nor any other force would be capable of protecting either our life or our property. This is a lesson to remember today, the 204th anniversary of the printing of Washington's "Farewell Address."

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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